

REMARKS:

- 1) Referring to item 10) of the Office Action Summary, the Examiner is respectfully requested to approve the formal drawings that were originally filed with this application on August 31, 2001.
- 2) A few corrections have been made by the present amendment in the specification. These corrections are merely clerical or editorial, and do not introduce any new matter. Entry thereof is respectfully requested.
- 3) The claims have been amended as follows. Independent claim 25 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of prior claims 27 and 28. Independent claim 34 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of prior claim 47. Claims 27, 28 and 47 have been canceled. Several of the claims have been amended in an editorial manner for stylistic reasons, or for improved streamlining and conformance among the claims. New claims 48 and 49 have been added, whereby claim 48 is supported by a combination of original claims 34, 38 and 42, and claim 49 is supported by a combination of original claims 34 and 46. In view of the mere combination of claims and editorial amendment, the present claim amendments and new claims do not introduce any new matter. Entry and consideration of the claim amendments and the new claims are respectfully requested.

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- 4) Referring to section 5 on page 3 of the Office Action, the indication of allowable subject matter in original claims 28, 42, 46 and 47 is appreciated. All of the present remaining claims incorporate the indicated allowable subject matter, as follows.

Amended independent claim 25 incorporates the allowable combination of prior claims 25, 27 and 28. Thus, claim 25 and its dependent claims 26 and 29 to 33 should now be allowable.

Amended independent claim 34 incorporates the allowable combination of prior claims 34 and 47. Thus, claim 34 and its dependent claims 35 to 46 should now be allowable.

New independent claim 48 is based on the allowable combination of prior claims 34, 38 and 42, and should be allowable.

New independent claim 49 is based on the allowable combination of prior claims 34 and 46, and should be allowable.

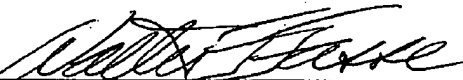
- 5) Referring to sections 3 and 4 on page 3 of the Office Action, the rejections of claims 25 to 27, 29 to 41 and 43 to 45 as anticipated by US Patent 5,783,333 (Mayer) or US Patent 6,007,947 (Mayer) have been obviated by the present amendment. As pointed out above, all of the present remaining claims incorporate allowable subject matter from previous claims that had not been rejected. Accordingly, the rejections cannot be maintained, and should be withdrawn.

- 6) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 25, 26, 29 to 46, 48 and 49, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

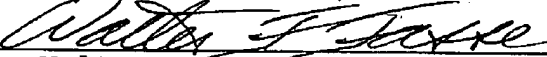
Takuya SUNAGAWA  
Applicant

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Enclosures:  
Term Extension,  
Form PTO-2038

By   
Walter F. Fasse  
Patent Attorney  
Reg. No.: 36132  
Tel. 207-862-4671  
Fax. 207-862-4681  
P. O. Box 726  
Hampden, ME 04444-0726

CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being transmitted by telefax to (703) 872-9310 on the date indicated below, and is addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

 11/20/03  
Name: Walter F. Fasse - Date: November 20, 2003